

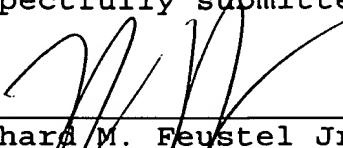
REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' attorney wish to thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesy of the in-person interview on April 13, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to reconsider the pending rejection and issue a new, non-final Office action (a copy of the Interview summary is attached).

Applicants would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate one of the arguments Applicant presented during the interview regarding the Israel reference. In the December 19, 2005 Office action, the Examiner expressed the view in connection with claims 1-44, 60-103 and 119-162 that Israel discloses applicant's claimed "case manager". This, however, cannot be the case. Applicant's "case manager" is "a user other than the user or at least one party" who "guid[es] the user and the at least one party through the dispute resolution process." Israel states (as does the current Office action), that its user (i.e., program user) can "take advantage of a full range of non-judicial dispute resolution techniques." Applicant's respectfully submit that this must refer to one of the disputing parties (e.g., Israel's program user) because that is who "takes advantage" of the dispute resolution process. Applicant's "case manager" is not one of the disputing parties and, more importantly, because applicant's case manager "guides" the parties through the dispute resolution process, could not be one of the parties because of the adversarial nature of a dispute.

Accordingly applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-44, 60-103 and 119-162 be withdrawn.¹

Respectfully submitted,


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¹ Applicant's have not submitted additional arguments or amendments for the remaining claims because the Examiner indicated during the interview that a restriction requirement may be forthcoming.